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Business letter from James E. Calhoun, 1856 May 21

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San Francisco

May 21st 1856

My dear Sir

I recd by the last
Steamer your letter of the 20th
March, enclosing a certificate
of deposits from Mechanics
Bank N.Y. for \$3000,- which
I sold at a premium of two
percent - the form in which
you have made this remittance
is the best you could have
adopted, & I have obtained
for it the highest premium
ever given for exchanges here, ^{present} at ^{city}

I had no opportunity of answer-
ing your letter by the last
steamer, & merely do so
now, to acknowledge its receipt.
The pressure of business, & the
difficulty of attending to
any thing under the present
excitement in the city, prevents
me from giving the estimate
you desire of your investments
under my control. I will
merely say here, that they
have been fortunate, & such
as I have no doubt you
will be much pleased
with. You will perceive

by the accounts sent an-
by this Steamer, that we
are at present, & have
been for some days, under
great public excitement in
this City. It is the revival of
the former days of the Vigilance
Committee in 1857- with a
more formidable organization
& mature plans of operations.

I do not approve of the
movement myself, nor do
those whose opinions or prin-
ciples of reformatory movements I
most respect. They will
succeed in executing two of
their prisoners, who will in all

Probably be hanged today
sometime, & who may be
murders, & they will also
succeed in driving from the City
many notorious villains, but
this does not authorize an open
& deliberate violation of Law,
- order, such as they have
already ^{done} must continue to do,
when the same amount of
effort directed to the reformation
of the social & political con-
dition of the Community, upon
legitimate & peaceful prin-
ciples would just as certainly
ensure success, without
establishing the most dan-
gerous precedent to the

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overthrow of confidence
in the protection of life, liberty
& property through lawful
& constitutional means.
Do not misunderstand me to
entertain any apprehension
of these sad results at
this particular time, I
refer to the principle at
the bottom of this movement,
its immediate effects may,
& it is generally supposed even
by those who do not give
it their approval, will be good.

I say this much in order
to relieve you from any un-
necessary anxiety in reference
to my personal safety, &

You own interest out
here, which you might
otherwise infer from the
published account,

I will write you fully by
the next steamer upon
matters of your own concern
- you desire information re,
& also to Sister Anna
for the interruption of my
correspondence with whom I
have great regrets - Give
my love to Sister Anna &
the children.

Yours affectionately
J. E. Calhoun

Thos. E. Gleason Esq.

Bladenboro
N. J.